

THE POLYNESIAN.

SATURDAY, MAY 5, 1855.

Completion of Vol. Eleven.

The present number closes the eleventh volume of the Polynesian. On the 12th of May the first number of vol. 12 will be issued, on which occasion the carrier will present a subscription paper, and be authorized to receive pay for the volume. Receipts will be sent with the 2d number. Terms, \$6, always in advance.

Mail for San Francisco.

The mail per bark "YANKEE" will close at the Post-office to-day at 10 o'clock A. M. precisely, as the vessel sails at 11 o'clock.

The new Tariff Act.

The new tariff act having been eagerly sought for by a large number of the merchants and residents of Honolulu, we publish it on our first page as it passed the house of representatives on the 28th ult.

The main features of this act are, 1st it reduces the duty on liquor from \$5 to \$3 per gallon. 2d, it imposes a duty of \$1 per gallon on wines of a strength between 18 and 30 per cent. of alcohol, which now pay a duty of five per cent. ad valorem. 3d, instead of a uniform duty of five per cent. on all other merchandise, this act admits a class of goods free, and three other classes at five, ten and fifteen per cent. ad valorem.

The best feature in the bill, and the only desirable one in itself considered, is, in the language of the Minister of Finance, "to facilitate the negotiation of new treaty stipulations by which our legislation can be free and national, until such time as we are not a free and independent government."

Sec. 7th provides that this act shall take effect in twelve months after its publication in the Polynesian newspaper, "provided that it is not in violation of any treaty existing at the time." The 6th article of the treaty of 1846 with France is the only treaty stipulation which prevents this government from enacting this, or any other legislative measure it may choose, for the regulation of the internal affairs of the kingdom; and we are happy to believe that the Commissioner of Finance stands ready to negotiate a new treaty, by which the restrictions now imposed shall be removed, and the government left, as by the English, American and other treaties, free in the exercise of all its sovereign rights.

The effect of these changes upon the revenue were estimated by the Minister of Finance in 1854 as follows, taking the revenue of 1853 as a basis of calculation.

By the existing laws, there was collected on Spirits, Wines, &c., for the year 1853, \$72,631 00
By the bill proposed, there would be collected on the same quantity, 43,946 69

Making a difference of \$28,684 31
On other goods, wares and merchandise, by the existing laws there was collected 57,379 72
By the proposed law there would be collected on the same value, 116,091 98

Making a difference of \$58,712 26
Less difference on spirits, wines, &c., 28,684 31

\$30,027 95

So that the proposed bill will produce more than the existing laws, by \$30,027 95

The amount of goods, (as per schedule of the Collector General herewith annexed), imported last year, which would pay a duty of 15 per cent. under the proposed bill was \$315,556 55—15 per cent. \$47,348 48
10 per cent. 544,531 57 10 " 54,453 15
5 " 286,207 04 5 " 14,310 35

\$1,146,195 16
free goods, 20,102 48

Total \$1,166,297 64

Amount of duties as per Bill proposed \$116,091 98

Ships, Shipping, &c.

The clipper ship *SETHUNE*, arrived on the 1st inst. in 12 days from San Francisco. She brings the mail of March 20th from New York, passengers for this port, and 150 Chinese bound to Hongkong. Sailed 2d for China.

The bark *BERING*, Morse, sailed from Boston for Honolulu on the 16th of March. The ship *JOHN GILPIN* was to sail about the 25th March for this port.

The clipper schooner *LADY JANE*, Hooper, arrived at S. F. on the 12th April, in 13 days from this port; and the bark *JULIA ANN* the same day, in 14 days.

The bark *FRANCES PALMER*, Paty, arrived on the 10th April, after an unusual long passage of 28 days. The mail however, was in time to be forwarded by the steamer *Golden Age*, which sailed the 17th. After leaving Honolulu, the P. F. encountered strong N. E. winds, and was driven into lat. 43° 30' N. long. 167° W. Here she met a succession of head winds and seas, and heavy southerly gales, which resulted in her long passage.

The U. S. S. *St. Mary's* sailed from San Francisco on the 18th ult. for San Juan del Sur.

The steamer *KALAMA*, Capt. Penhallow, has been a week due from Kauai. The cause of her detention is not known, as no vessel has arrived from that island during the past week. We hope no disaster has happened to her.

Weekly Steamers.

The rumor published recently that the *Niagara* steamers after the 20th of March were to leave New York on the 5th and 20th of each month, is contradicted by authority, in the San Francisco papers. They will continue to leave N. Y. as heretofore, on the 12th and 24th,—thus alternating with the mail line to Panama, which despatches its steamer on the 5th and 20th.

H. Sea, Auctioneer, sold on Monday last, eleven lots situated on Nuuanu and Fort Streets, just out of Bevetania Street, for an aggregate of nearly ten thousand dollars. This rate surprised every one, and was higher by 50 per cent. than any body anticipated.

How will it operate here?

A new postage act passed by the American Congress, to go into effect on the 1st of April, by which all letters are to be pre-paid, without exception.

We have not seen the law, and inquire for information, whether letters from Honolulu to the eastern states must be pre-paid through, or on they go, as formerly, by merely pre-paying the Hawaiian postage.

LATER NEWS!

New York, March 20th.

DEATH OF THE EMPEROR OF RUSSIA!

The clipper bark *Elvira Harbeck*, arrived on the 28th ult. in 14 days from San Francisco. By her we have New York papers of the 20th of March, received here in 38 days. She brought no mail; that having been forwarded by the clipper ship *Split-Fire*, to sail the same day.

The news by this arrival is of the highest importance, the principal item of which being the death of the Emperor Nicholas of Russia, as announced in both houses of the British Parliament on the night of the 28th of March. In the United States this intelligence was regarded as authentic by many, while others thought it all a hoax, like other impositions practiced upon the world by the press, since the war was begun. But from all we can discover, the report seems entirely worthy of credit, and entitled to confidence, and is so received by the New York Tribune, from which we extract the following—

Most Important—Latest.

SUDDEN DEATH OF THE EMPEROR OF RUSSIA.

LONDON, Friday night March 2, 1855.

This evening, in the House of Lords, the Earl of Clarendon rose and said: "I think it is my duty to communicate to your lordships the contents of a telegraphic dispatch which I received half an hour since from Her Majesty's Minister at the Hague, that the Emperor Nicholas died this morning at one o'clock of pulmonary apoplexy, after an attack of illness. I have also received a dispatch from Her Majesty's Minister at Berlin, stating that the Emperor of Russia died at 12 o'clock this morning. An hour before this dispatch arrived I received accounts from Lord John Russell, at Berlin, stating that the Emperor was on the point of death, and had already taken leave of his family. Although this event occurred so short a time ago, as between twelve and one o'clock this morning, there can be no doubt, under these circumstances, of its authenticity."

In the House of Commons Lord Palmerston made a similar statement. It was surmised that the Emperor died by hand of the assassin, but the cause assigned above was generally credited. The effect of this startling announcement in political and monetary matters has not been developed, and it is impossible to say what it may produce. It created great excitement.

By the death of the Emperor of Russia, his eldest son, Alexander Nicolawitch, succeeds to the throne. He is now 37 years of age. He married a Princess of the house of Darmstadt in 1842, and the fruits of that marriage are four sons and a daughter.

The Emperor Nicholas was in his fifty-ninth year when he died. He was married in 1817 to Charlotte, the eldest daughter of King Frederic William of Prussia, which is a powerful reason for the strong desire of Prussia to remain neutral in the struggle now going on between Russia and the allied powers.

The War.—Nothing of importance had occurred in the Crimea up to the 22d of February. The Vienna Conference was to meet on the 5th of March, and it is highly probable that the death of the Emperor of Russia will open the way to a speedy peace.

Lord Raglan has resigned. Joseph Hume, the veteran reformer is dead. Inclement weather in England, as in the United States, had caused much suffering among the poor, and riots had occurred in Liverpool and London.

The Rev J. D. Sroon arrived on the 1st inst., in the clipper ship *Splitfire* from New York, via San Francisco. Mr. Sroon has come to the Islands in answer to a call from the 2d Foreign Church and Congregation of Honolulu to become their pastor, a post vacated by the Rev. T. E. Taylor by reason of a failure of health.

We congratulate the above named church and congregation upon the arrival of Mr. S., and cannot but hope he will be eminently successful in the discharge of his professional duties in Honolulu.

Hon. Wm. L. Lee.

The numerous friends of the Hon. Wm. L. Lee will be gratified to learn that his health improved considerably on his voyage to San Francisco on board the *Frances Palmer*, notwithstanding its great length. He writes in good spirits on the 17th of April,—expecting to leave for New York on the *Niagara Steamer* of the 25th, and to make his way North via New Orleans.

Appointment.

His Majesty has been pleased to appoint the Hon. Z. KAUAUAI a local circuit judge for the 2d judicial district, in place of S. M. KANAKAU, resigned. The 2d judicial district embraces the Islands of Maui, Molokai, and Lanai.

Business at San Francisco.

A private letter of April 17th says:—"As to business here of a general nature we can say that the arrival of 18 large clippers, bearing a number of full ships, during the past few days has caused a heavy decline in many articles of merchandise, of which stocks had been accumulating for many months. Money remains scarce,—many receivers of goods being obliged to realize by forced sales to meet freight bills, money very difficult to obtain on merchandise."

Clement.

See notice of Mr. Clement White, in another column.

HAWAIIAN LEGISLATURE.

House of Nobles.

Friday, April 27.

The act to repeal the dog tax was taken up in committee of the whole, discussed, and indefinitely postponed.

The act in relation to the reef of Waikahalua was taken up on its second reading, and a committee appointed to meet a similar committee of the other House, consisting of Messrs. Keoniana, Nahaolelua, and Kekuanoa. Adjourned.

Saturday, April 28.

A communication was received from the House of Representatives, stating that a joint committee had been appointed consisting of Messrs. Fuller, Kamehameha and Widemann, to meet a similar committee of the House, on the act to remove the Bureau of Public Works from the Department of the Interior to the Department of War.

A committee was appointed consisting of Messrs. Allen, Armstrong and Nahaolelua to meet the above committee of the other House.

The Secretary was authorized to draw for the expenses of the House, \$81 93.

The House went into committee of the whole on the act for the employment of the prisoners on the island of Oahu, which was amended and passed its second reading. The rules were suspended and the act was read a third time and passed.

The act for the suppression of prostitution was read a first time. The rules were suspended and the House went into committee of the whole on the second reading of the bill. Pending the discussion the committee rose and the House adjourned.

Monday, April 30.

The new Tariff Act was received from the House of

Representatives as passed by them. Also a message, notifying the House of Nobles that Messrs. Rooke, Fuller, and Z. KAUAUAI were appointed on the joint committee respecting the reef of Waikahalua. A petition from Kaupiki and nine others was received, that John II be not allowed to sit in the House of Representatives. Referred to the Committee on the Constitution.

The act to prevent prostitution was taken up in committee of the whole, discussed at length and amended. Pending the discussion the committee rose and the House adjourned.

Mr. Armstrong, from the committee, reported in favor of transferring the bureau of public improvements from the Department of the Interior to the Department of War. Report accepted.

A message from the other House was received, transmitting joint resolutions for the support of the military and police, which were read the first time. The rules were suspended, and the joint resolutions were read a second and third time and passed.

The bill to provide revenue from imports, &c., (the new Tariff Act) was read the first time, and referred to a committee of three, consisting of Messrs. Wyllie, Armstrong and Kekuanoa.

The bill for the suppression of prostitution was read the third time and passed. Adjourned.

Wednesday, May 2.

A petition was read from Kaupiki and eight others, that the Hon. G. M. Robertson be not allowed to sit in the House of Representatives, he being a judicial officer of the government. Referred to the committee on the Constitution.

An act was received from the House of Representatives to provide a police court for the port of Hilo, and the act returned to incorporate the Honolulu Sailors' Home Society.

The Hilo Police Court bill was read the first time. The rules were suspended, the act discussed, and was read a second and third time and passed. Adjourned.

Thursday, May 3.

The House took up the Tariff Act in committee of the whole, where it was discussed and the first section passed. On motion of Mr. Armstrong, seconded by Mr. Wyllie, the remaining sections were all passed by a single vote, when the Committee rose and reported the act to the House, where it passed on its second reading.

On motion of Mr. Allen, seconded by Kekuanoa, the rules were suspended, the act read the third time by its title and passed. Adjourned.

Having passed both Houses, the Tariff Act only awaits the King's signature to become a law.

House of Representatives.

Friday, April 27.

A number of petitions were presented and referred, among which was one from 70 or 80 foreign residents of Honolulu praying for a city charter. Referred to a committee of Messrs. Whitney, Rooke, Maikai, Kalanala and Richardson.

Reports of Committees.

The committee on Internal Improvements in favor of sundry public works on the different islands, and among others for a fish market in Honolulu.

The bill respecting the department of public works and the bill providing for the census, were received from the Nobles, and referred.

Mr. Thurston from committee on the wine bill reported in favor of passing an engrossed. Ordered for Tuesday.

The bill respecting divorce was ordered to a second reading on Wednesday.

The tax collectors' compensation bill was ordered for to-morrow.

The bankrupt act was ordered for to-day.

The new tariff bill (the unfinished business) came up in committee of the whole, was discussed at length, and passed to engrossed.

On the final passage of the tariff act, Messrs. Austin, Davis, Fuller, Isaac II, Z. KAUAUAI, D. KAUAUAI, Kaunama, Kahala, Sumner, Keonaho, Keawehunahala, Kupaake, Maikai, Richardson, Robinson, Widemann—17.

Nobles—Kamakau, Kalama, Kalana, Kalaaukane, Kipi, Koiku, Paulo, Thurston, Whitney—9

Saturday, April 28.

Deferred until Monday.

Reports of Committees.

From committee on the judiciary against any new police regulations. Recommended.

By Dr. Rooke that a select committee of 3 be appointed to inquire as to why the mail carrier act of last year has not been carried out, and to investigate into the affairs of the Post office dept. generally. Adopted.

By Mr. Robertson that the committee on the judiciary be instructed to report a bill respecting the dog tax—Ordered for Tuesday.

The bill to provide a police magistrate for Hilo, passed through two readings and was ordered to be engrossed.

The tariff act came up in committee of the whole, on a third reading, was debated, and finally passed. The bankrupt act was read a second time and referred to the committee on the judiciary.

The Nobles informed by message that they had appointed a joint committee of conference on the subject of the Waikahalua property.

Dr. Rooke read first time bill providing for shipping offices for native seamen. Second reading on Wednesday.

The subject of Dr. Lathrop's claim was taken up in committee of the whole on the Report of the committee to pay him \$1,437.50. The subject was debated at great length, some members advocating the payment of \$2,500 the amount claimed, others for \$1,437.50 and one for nothing at all.

The committee on Finance were instructed to insert the whole amount claimed in the appropriation bill by a vote of 18 to 7.

The militia act was received from the Nobles and ordered for Monday. Also the bill respecting employment of prisoners which was referred to a select committee. Adjourned.

Monday, April 30.

Eleven, on the usual variety of subjects;—appropriately referred.

Reports of Committees.

New jury regulations. Adopted.

From committee on all for the suppression of prostitution, which was made an order for to-day.

Maikai read first time a bill to exempt the King's revenue from poll tax. Second reading to-morrow.

The bill respecting stations was read a second time and referred to the committee on agriculture.

ORDER OF THE DAY.

The act to incorporate the Sailors Home passed the final reading, as did the bill to provide a police court at Hilo.

The bill to permit natives to visit foreign lands at will was ordered for Tuesday.

The spot and dog bill was referred to the Honolulu and Lahaina delegation.

The police justices bill was ordered for Friday.

The bill making Kalepolele and Kahululu ports of entry had a second reading and was ordered for Saturday.

A similar act respecting Koloa, Kauai was ordered as above.

The two awa bills were taken up in committee of the whole; one laid on the table and the other referred to a select committee.

The act respecting the streets of Honolulu and Lahaina was read a second time, and deferred for the present.

The beer tabu bill, was read a 2d time, and referred to select committee.

The bill to forbid the manufacture of intoxicating drinks from potatoes &c. was referred to a committee on the beer bill.

The bill to reduce the horse tax was ordered for Friday.

The usury bill was ordered for Monday. Adjourned.

Wednesday, May 2.

PETITIONS.

Several, from different parts of Oahu.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES.

The Finance committee recommended to lay on the table a large number of petitions for the reduction or abolition of taxes. Adopted.

The bill respecting seamen's taxes was ordered for to-morrow.

The committee on Public Works reported against the proposition to construct a road at Aloha, Maui. Ordered for to-morrow.

The committee on Foreign Relations made a report, which was adopted.

The committee on claims reported in favor of repaying the money expended for His Majesty's funeral, but stating their view that such expenditure, without the previous authorization of the Legislature, was illegal, and a bad precedent. Adopted.

The Nobles informed by message that they had passed the bill to provide a police court for Hilo.

Mr. Kaauwai introduced a bill respecting the sale of beer. Deferred.

On motion of Mr. Fuller the sum of \$1500 was ordered to be inserted in the appropriation bill for the bridge over the Wailuku at Hilo.

Mr. Maikai moved to inquire of the Minister of the Interior as to the amount collected from the different pounds in the Kingdom. Adopted.

Mr. Robertson read 1st time a bill respecting appeals. 2d reading to-morrow.

ORDER OF THE DAY.

The bill revising the District Courts, was referred to the committee on the judiciary.

The bill respecting estrays was ordered for Friday.

The bill for the prohibition of bridges had a second reading and was referred.

The tax officers' compensation bill was ordered for to-morrow.

The census bill was referred to the committee on education.

The bill to amend the election laws passed a second reading and was ordered to be engrossed. Adjourned.

Thursday, May 3.

Petition from Honolulu, that all persons over 40 years of age be exempt from militia service.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES.

The Bankruptcy act was ordered for to-morrow.

The Census act was ordered to a 3d reading to-morrow.

RESOLUTIONS.

By Mr. Robinson, appropriating \$500 for the road from Kawaihewa to Waimea. Referred.

By the same, for a joint committee on the subject of the mountain road from Waimea to Hilo. Adopted.

ORDER OF THE DAY.

The bill to amend the election law passed a final reading.

The bill to pay tax collectors by a per centage, was debated in committee of the whole, and referred to a select committee for revision.

The militia act was read a first time, and ordered for to-morrow.

A message was received from the Nobles stating that they have this day passed the new Tariff Act, without amendment.

The bill providing for those who have failed to take out their kuleanas, was taken up in committee of the whole, and referred to a select committee.

The wine bill, in committee of the whole, was laid on the table, 14 to 10.

The bill to reduce the dog tax was ordered to be engrossed.

The taxation bill was read a second time and ordered for Tuesday.

The prostitution suppression bill was taken up and the amendment of the Nobles concurred in.

AN ACT APPROPRIATING MONEY FOR THE LEGISLATURE OF 1855.

Be it enacted by the King, the Nobles and Representatives of the Hawaiian Islands, in Legislative Council assembled:

Sec. 1. There shall be set apart by His Majesty's Minister of Finance, out of the money in the Treasury, the sum of eight thousand dollars, for the expenses of the two Houses of the Legislature, without waiting for the general Appropriation Bill of this year.

Sec. 2. The House of Nobles and the House of Representatives shall be at liberty to draw on the Minister of Finance at their discretion, for any sums of money, within the amount above specified to meet their expenses.

Approved this April 21, 1855.

KAMEHAMEHA.

VICTORIA K. KAUAUAI.

AN ACT RELATING TO THE PORT OF HILO.

Be it enacted by the King, the Nobles and Representatives of the Hawaiian Islands, in Legislative Council assembled:

That, from and after the passage of this Act the same privileges, in regard to the shipping of native seamen, and to the discharge of foreign and native seamen, that now are, or may hereafter be, conferred by law, on the ports of Honolulu in the Island of Oahu, and Lahaina in the Island of Maui be, and the same are hereby conferred likewise on the port of Hilo, in the Island of Hawaii.

Approved, this 28th day of April, 1855.

KAMEHAMEHA.

VICTORIA K. KAUAUAI.

JOINT RESOLUTION.

Be it enacted by the King, the Nobles and Representatives of the Hawaiian Islands, in Legislative Council assembled:

That until the passage of the general Appropriation Bill, the Minister of Finance is authorized to pay all drafts drawn on him by the Minister of the Interior, for the necessary expenses of the port of Honolulu, not exceeding the sum of fifteen hundred dollars.

Approved, this 23d April, 1855.

KAMEHAMEHA.